

Monitoring the relief package for Vidarbha

441. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that cattle distributed to the families of farmers as a part of relief package for suicide prone villages in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and other parts of the country were sold by farmers due to their inability to maintain the cattles;

(b) the steps taken in consultation with concerned State Governments that the relief package is properly implemented and benefits reach the farmers;

(c) whether Government have set up any Monitoring Committee to review the implementation of relief package; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No such matter has been reported by the State Government so far.

(b) to (d) An implementation mechanism has been instituted to ensure effective and time bound implementation of the rehabilitation package. The implementation mechanism consists of:—

(i) State Level Coordination and Supervision Committee; and

(ii) District Level Implementation Committee.

In addition, the Government of India regularly monitors the implementation of the rehabilitation package.

Agriculture growth rate

442. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's reaction to the extremely poor rate of growth of agriculture in 2006-07;

- (b) whether it is a fact that rate of growth projections of agriculture are near the 2 per cent figure;
- (c) the reason for this laggard rate of growth of agriculture;
- (d) the contribution of live-stock in the projected growth; and
- (e) the contribution of marine and inland fisheries in this projected growth of agriculture for 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) According to advance estimates of National Income released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rate of agriculture including allied sectors of forestry, logging and fishing in real terms (at 1999-2000 prices) for the year 2006-07 is 2.7 per cent, compared to 6.0 per cent in 2005-06. The growth rate of 2.7 per cent in 2006-07 is upon the base of growth rate at 6.0 per cent in 2005-06. The contributions of livestock, marine and inland fisheries in the growth rate for 2006-07 have not been worked out by the CSO separately.

Coconut production

443. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that coconut trees in Kerala are too old and their productivity has declined considerably;
- (b) if so, how Government propose to increase their productivity;
- (c) whether Government are keen to improve the coconut yield;
- (d) the number of families in the country totally dependent on coconut cultivation;
- (e) whether Government plan to increase the coconut plantation; and
- (f) why the Coconut Board wastes its precious resources having offices like in Baster where coconut trees do not normally grow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is estimated that about 25-33% of coconut trees in Kerala are old & senile and the productivity is on the decline.